

Message Text

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 04619 191854 Z

42

ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 IO-03 SY-02 PM-03 L-02 M-03 A-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 NSC-10 NSCE-00 RSR-01

PRS-01 OPR-01 EB-03 AID-10 SCA-01 /073 W

----- 115883

R 191630 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1772

S E C R E T BEIRIT 4619

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, LE

SUBJ: PALESTINIAN ATTITUDES

1. EMBOFF TALKED ABOUT LOCAL SITUATION ON APRIL 18 WITH PALESTINIAN INTELLECTUAL WALID KHALIDI (AUB PROFESSOR, DIRECTOR OF INSTITUTE PALESTINE STUDIES, CLOSE TO ' ARAFAT AND WELL AND FAVORABLY KNOWN TO EMBASSY). KHALIDI CONFIRMED VERY HIGH DEGREE OF ANTI- AMERICANISM PREVAILING HERE ESPECIALLY AMONG PALESTINIANS. HE SAID EMOTIONAL IMPACT OF BEIRUT ASSASSINATIONS HAD BEEN VERY GREAT, PARTICULARLY RE PLO SPOKESMAN KAMAL NASSER WHO WAS CHRISTIAN, KNOWN TO BE MODERATE AND NOT INVOLVED IN TERRORIST ACTIVITIES. (WE HAVE HEARD SAME SENTIMENTS ABOUT KAMAL NASSER EXPRESSED BY STRONGLY- ANTI- FEDAYEEN MEMBERS OF LEBANESE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY.)

2. DISCUSSING JZBIG LIEBZN KHALIKDI SAID HE DOES NOT BELIEVE IT AND HAS RESPONDED TO QUESTIONS THAT HE DOES NOT BELIEVE IT, ARGUING THAT ISRAELIS HAD NO NEED AT ALL FOR SUCH US ASSISTANCE AND FROM US POINT OF VIEW, THERE ARE GOOD REASONS FOR NOT BECOMING INVOLVED IN THIS TYPE OF OPERATION. HOWEVER, KHALIDI SAID THAT USG HAS BECOME SO IDENTIFIED WITH ISRAEL IN EYES MOST ARABS THAT ALL OUR DENIALS HAD LIMITED EFFECT.

SECRET

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 04619 191854 Z

3. KHALIDI SAID EMBASSY SHOULD INDEED TAKE SERIOUSLY REPORTED THREATS ON EMBASSY AND EMBASSY PERSONNEL. HE

SAID THAT THREAT COMES FROM COMBINATION OF DELIBERATE
DESIRE OF LEADERSHIP, FROM STRONG FEELINGS BELOW LEADERSHIP
LEVEL WHICH LATTER UNWILLING OPPOSE, AND FROM SPONTANEOUS
ACTION BY INDIVIDUALS HAVING NO RELATION TO AND UNKNOWN
BY LEADERSHIP. KALIDI SAID IT WAS ESSENTIAL FOR USG, AS FIRST
STEP TO REDUCING TENSIONS AND ANTI- AMERICAN HOSTILITY IN AREA,
NOT RPT NOT VETO SC RES.

4. KHALIDI SAID THAT EFFORTS BY SOME PALESTINIANS TO
PRODUCE A MORE REASONABLE FEDAYEEN FRAME OF MIND HAVE BEEN
TEMPORARILY SHELVED.

5. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE KHALIDI AGAIN BEING AS FRANK
AND HELPFUL AS HIS POSITION ALLOWS.
BUFFUM

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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30 JUN 2005

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